125th anniversary of the founding of our Masonic Home for Children which opened its doors to receive the first children in 1873.

In conclusion, the children and staff at the Masonic Home for Children extends to our Board of Directors, the Masons, alumni and friends across our state our deep appreciation for all you do to aid and assist us. As a vital part of our large family, you are making a difference in the lives of many children and we are grateful to each of you.

We especially express our gratitude to Grand Master Gerry T. Smith for his leadership and guidance while he served as Chairman of our Board of Directors during his year in office. He and his wife Becky have been long time supporters of our children and we look forward to their continued association with us.

In addition we express our appreciation to three of our Board of Directors who have completed their three year term on our Board. To Dr. James M. Galloway, Jr., Herman Alvin Arnold, and Leonard Y. Safrit, Jr., our Home is deeply appreciative for the three years you have devoted to our children. Your input, support and contributions have touched our lives and we look forward to your continued association.

Come to see us Brethren and may God bless you now and always.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. David R. Grissom, Administrator

Report of the Board of Directors of The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

(Docket No. 14)

The following report of the Board of Directors of The Masonic Home for Chidlren at Oxford was received and entered on the record:

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Board of Directors for the Masonic Home For Children at Oxford conducted their quarterly meetings during February, May, August, and November 1997 on the Masonic Home campus. The designated committees of the Board presented their reports and the total Board of Directors made any final decisions. It is appropriate to note, during each decision that was made, the priority of the children and their care was of utmost importance.

During 1997, a great deal of focus has been on the area of education and developing a computer lab on campus. As you recall, the beef operation was phased out over a year ago and the pasture land was leased for five years to a Granville County resident. As a result, monies that were designated for the farm operation were converted to the development of a stronger educational program. Fortunately, after careful study, the Long Range Planning Committee presented a proposal for a Computer Lab, Library, and Resource Center to be utilized in the basement of the York Rite Memorial Chapel.

The Board appropriated \$30,000 to begin this much needed project during the summer of 1997, and Glaxo Wellcome donated \$10,000 dollars earmarked for the Education Center. In the fall of 1997 Nortel and the Oxford Orphanage Alumni Association donated more monies to assist with the education project. In November 1997, Mrs. Dot Watson and her son Kenny donated \$35,000 toward completing this educational endeavor. As a result, and the approval of the Board of Directors, the new educational area was named The J. Earl and Dot Watson Resource Center. As you recall, Past Grand Master J. Earl Watson was a long time supporter, and board member of the Home before his death. Mrs. Watson and Kenny not only wanted to remember Brother Watson, but this was a wonderful way to enhance a vibrant education for present and future students.

Currently, the library is being utilized as a study hall and tutorial lab to assist any of our students with their studies. The computer lab is operational daily as students work on their projects and research papers. Fortunately, resource books and various kinds of quality reading material have been donated to our library to enhance the reading ability of our students.

The Independent Living Cottage for college students continues to be an asset as the students can attend the local Vance-Granville Community College and live on campus. We have discovered, some of our college students who scored high enough to go directly to a four year college, want to return to our campus during the summer, take on summer employment, and live in our Independent Living Cottage, before returning to college in the fall. It is always a good feeling to know your children want to return home occasionally.

The census on the campus of the Masonic Home for Children will vary during the year. At the conclusion of 1997, there were 69 boys and 57 girls for a total of 126 children. The Board of Directors continues to study the population and we realize it is not the quantity of students we can assist but rather the quality of a child who can benefit from our programs. Realistically, however, we also know our Home can accommodate approximately 60 more children and we encourage our Masonic lodges to be sensitive to the needs of children in their area. At the present time, a publicity committee has been delegated to provide a program which will enhance the mission and purpose of the Masonic Home for Children and we anticipate this being ready during 1998. If any of our Masons have questions or need information about the Masonic Home for Children, do not hesitate to call (919) 693-5111 and our staff will be glad to assist you.

During 1997, approximately 10,500 Masons, their families, and friends attended St. John's Day on the campus of the Masonic Home for Children. It was an "Under the Oaks" experience as the fellowship, fun, and food provided for a full day of joy and excitement. As this event is the largest Masonic celebration in our state every year, we are always delighted to see old friends and enjoy new friendships. We are truly grateful to our three Shrine Temples in North Carolina, Amran, Oasis, and Sudan, for the excellent work, time and expense they provide to assist in making this memorable day a big success. We continue to remember Brother Lloyd Young and the St. John's Day Committee for the many hours and dedicated service which is provided year after year to make this day meaningful for everyone in attendance. As a reminder, St. John's Day 1998 will be held on June 20, and since this will be the 125th anniversary of the Masonic Home for Children, we hope to have the largest attendance to ever witness a St. John's Day. Admission is free and all you need to bring is a big smile and lounge chair and be prepared to have a wonderful day.

Financially, the Board of Directors carefully studies the overall operation of the Masonic Home for Children during each quarterly meeting. It is vital that all monies be utilized to the fullest potential and reported with accuracy to the Craft. The brethren will find a Comparative Statement of Income 1997 and Comparative Statement of Expenses 1997 at the conclusion of the Board of Directors report. The board continues to be supportive of all the departments on campus as they try, with diligence, to keep the cost in line, and in many cases, under budget. We appreciate the good work David Ford, business manager, Mary Helen Parrott, financial secretary, and Brenda Wilkins, executive secretary, provide as they keep accurate books on all expenses and respond as quickly as possible with letters of appreciation for monies donated. In addition, we extend deep appreciation to Dan C. Rice, chairman of finance, and his committee, for the fine work they provide in helping us to audit our books throughout the year and

maintaining accurate reporting to our Board of Directors on all income and expenses.

It is vital for the brethren to know that your donations to our quality child care program are important. As we prepare for the 1998 budget year at the Masonic Home for Children, we want to thank you for your continued support and contributions as your assistance is making a tremendous difference in the life of every child on campus.

If any of our Masons or Masonic lodges know of families, friends, or groups who want information regarding wills and bequests or want to remember our Masonic charities in a philanthropic manner, please call Jim Medlin, director of development for the Grand Lodge of North Carolina at (919) 787-2021 and he will gladly assist you.

Our Masonic Home for Children depends on your donations, prayers, and kindness and we know you will make 1998 another successful year just as your dedication for 1997 was absolutely outstanding.

As we conclude our annual report from the Board of Directors, we express our gratitude to Grand Master Gerry T. Smith for his leadership and support during his year as chairman of our board. We also extend our appreciation to three of our board members who completed their three year term as vital and active participants. To Dr. James M. Galloway, Jr., Herman Alvin Arnold, and Leonard Y. Safrit, Jr., many thanks for all you have done and we look forward to your continued involvement with our children in the future. May God guide and direct our board now and in the years ahead as we anticipate many wonderful opportunities for our Masonic Home and the children entrusted to our care.

Comparative S	Statement of	Income	1997
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1996	1997
Legacies	947,475.58
Social Security Payments Received on	
Dependent Children	54,086.00
Printing	326,362.59
Farm	4,306.37
Miscellaneous, Materials	
Equipment Sold	-0-
Grand Lodge Appropriation	
and Foundation	113,169.80
Donations (Blue Lodge) And Other	
Masonic Bodies	575,242.78
Donations - General Public	135,698.65
Income From Investments	1,177,484.07
Critcher Farm Income, Food Income,	
Cash Discounts	<u>39.452.55</u>
TOTAL\$2,729,451.34	\$3,373,278.39
Comparative Statement of Expenses 19	97
1996	1997
Administrative \$ 743,970.66	\$ 753,202.60
Direct Child Care	370,770.80
Food Service	250,985.50
Health Care	144,727.06
Religion	41,035.01
Education	86,163.79
Recreation	64,616.26
Plant & Operation	736,151.88
Farm & Beef Operation	-0-
Printing Department 434,433.21	383,196.64
TOTAL\$2,955,874.28	\$2,830,849.54

Respectfully submitted, Board of Directors The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

Report of the Committee on The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

(Docket No. 15)

The following report of the Committee on The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford was received, entered on the record and referred to the Board of Directors:

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Committee on the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, Inc. respectfully submits the following report:

Agreeable to Regulation 34-18 the Committee on the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, Inc. met at the Home on Friday, November 7, 1998. Our day began with the dedication of the J. Earl and Dot Watson Resource Center. The Watson Resource Center is located in the lower level of the York Rite Chapel. This facility, made possible by the continuing support and generosity of PGM Earl Watson's family, is tangible evidence of the commitment of the Home to provide our children with opportunities for educational advancement and achievement. The computers that are a part of the center now and the high speed internet connection that will be added open the vast opportunities of the electronic age to our children. The Resource Center, of course, has a continuing and never ending need for new media resources in both print and electronic.

Following the dedication we inspected the York Rite Chapel. The chapel, as the center of campus life at Oxford, provides one of several points of contrast between the institutional child care philosophy pursued by the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and the delivery of institutional child care elsewhere in North Carolina and the nation. The totally private charitable funding of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and our policy of private, voluntary placement of children by their legal custodians. allows our Home to require instruction in morality, based on religious belief and faith, of all our children. This instruction is the corner stone of the "Masonic method of child care." We urge the Board of Directors and the Masons of North Carolina to never waiver in their determination to operate and support the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford with only private voluntary gifts and accept only children voluntary placed in the home by their legal custodians. The addition of stained glass windows to the York Rite Chapel later this year will give it added beauty and luster appropriate to its central and exalted purpose.

After inspecting the York Rite Chapel we met briefly with the Board of Directors as they began their regular quarterly meeting. The Masonic method of child care depends on the dedication of the Masons willing labor on this board with the satisfaction of a job well done as their wage. On behalf of all of the Masons of North Carolina, this committee wishes to make its small contribution to the payment of the wages the members of the board so richly deserve. Well don, e Brother.

The Administrator of the Home, David Grissom, is an ordained Methodist Minister who now fills his calling by ministering to our children and makes his pulpit in the York Rite Chapel. Brother Grissom's spirit led administration of the Home has seen substantial improvement in every area of its operation. His gentle influence and inspired leadership is evident in the manner and attitude of every staff member our committee encountered. We urge the board and the Masons of North Carolina to continue their support of Brother Grissom's administration.

Our committee encountered a prime example of the spirit and commitment that permeate the Home on leaving the Board of Director's meeting in the persons of Mike Soehnlein and his wife Jean. As volunteers.

relying substantially on their own resources Brother Mike and Jean have started an excellent campus newspaper Campus Tracks. If you have not seen this excellent paper please call the Home and ask them to send you a copy. Brother Mike and Jean also welcome new subscribers to help them defray expenses.

Brother Grissom entrusted the committee to his administrative liason for the remainder of our campus tour and inspection. The Home is situated on a beautiful 453 acre farm in Granville County. The campus portion of the property is but a small fraction of the farm. In addition to serving our children, the campus has a developing role in the life of the Oxford community. The Webb High School Soccer Team plays its home games on the Home's playing fields. In addition the Youth Soccer Association uses the Home's playing fields. If lighting could be added to the main playing field, its utility to both our children and the Oxford community would be enhanced. Our committee recommends that the Board of Director's consider the possibility of lighting the main playing field.

The staff at the Home includes several alumni. The love and dedication displayed by our alumni who return to the Home to make their careers is one of the truest measures of the Home's success. One of these alumni is Mike Norwood who with his staff of 11 maintains the Home's physical plant. The Home's physical plant includes over 400 electric motors, 80 air conditioners, and constant landscaping and routine building maintenance demands. The Home has recently purchased a bucket truck to increase the ease and safety with which Brother Mike and his staff can perform their tasks.

Another of our alumni staff members is Hazel Davidson who heads the dining operation. With a staff of ten and several students, Hazel prepares all of the menus and meals served to the children and staff. The quality and economy of our dining operations are remarkable. We encourage you when visiting the Home to include the dining room and one of Hazel's meals in your plans.

Our committee wishes to commend the Board of Directors, Administration, and staff of the Home on a job well done. We encourage them to continue their dedication to the Masonic method of child care. We encourage them, the Grand Lodge, the subordinate lodges, and the Masons of North Carolina to promote the Masonic method of child care as an alternative that can offer superior results to children of families who embrace it of their own free will and accord. Our Home can accommodate up to 50 more children than it currently serves without building new facilities. We look forward to the day when the demand for the Masonic method of child care will out strip our existing facilities.

Respectfully submitted,
William L. Mills, Chairman
Willie R. Etheridge, III
Kenneth S. Ethridge
Eugene M. Garner
William R. Wallace, Jr.

Resolution of the Committee on Finance

(Docket No. 16)

The following resolution of the Committee on Finance was read and unanimously adopted:

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

RESOLVED, That the report of the Committee on Finance shall be the first order of business at the morning session of the Grand Lodge held on Saturday, April 25, 1998, and,

RESOLVED further, That all resolutions, motions, and reports asking for or carrying appropriations and expenditures not included in the proposed budget, shall be placed before the Grand Lodge before 4:00 P.M. on Friday, April 24, 1998, and,

RESOLVED further, That all such matters offered after 4:00 P.M. on Friday, April 24, 1998, be carried over to the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge in 1999.

Respectfully submitted, Robert E. Gresham, Jr., Chairman

Report of the Committee on Unfinished Business

(Docket No. 17)

The report of the Committee on Unfinished Business was received, entered on the record, and referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence. This report was respectfully submitted by Ronald E. Willis.

Proposed amendments to *The Code* contained therein are found along with their disposition in the Report of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, Docket No. 45.

Respectfully submitted, Ronald E. Willis, Chairman

Report of the Representative to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association

(Docket No. 18)

The following report was received and entered on the record. The recommendation that the Grand Lodge continue its membership was adopted, and the matter of finances was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Your representative attended the annual meeting of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association held at the Marriott Hotel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Monday, February 23, 1998.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Edgar N. Peppler, Past Grand Master of New Jersey. A report was presented by Donald Robey, the executive secretary-treasurer, outlining the accomplishments as well as the challenges of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial during the year 1997.

It was reported that the work of renovating and refurbishing the Memorial continues to progress as funds become available. A number of projects were completed during 1997, including the electrical system upgrade, air conditioning the main auditorium, computer upgrade, refurbishing the main entrance bronze doors, and general repainting and maintenance.

In 1997, the Masons of North Carolina paid tribute to the dean of its past grand masters, Jimmy Brewer by contributing \$7,500 to dedicate in his honor one of the windows in the tower of the Memorial. This tribute of love and esteem by Brother Jimmy's Masonic brothers has been suitably noted on a bronze plaque placed under the window.

A decision was made to construct a giant-sized Masonic emblem on the

front terrace of the Memorial in honor of George Washington. It was reported that this will be the largest Masonic emblem in the world, measuring 60 feet by 70 feet, and will greatly increase the Masonic identity of the Memorial from the ground and air.

On August 2, 1997, your representative attended a conference for state Cchairmen (representatives) held at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. The conference consisted of orientation and educational programs designed to better inform the state chairmen about the Memorial and to enhance its public relations initiatives.

Every Mason can be justly proud of this majestic National Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia, just across the river from our nation's capital. Lodges are encouraged to arrange visits to the Memorial where guided tours are available.

I make the following recommendations:

- 1. That we continue our membership in the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association.
- 2. That this Grand Jurisdiction promote visitation to and support of the Memorial through appropriate articles in *The North Carolina Mason*.
- 3. That we increase our contribution to the George Washington Masonic National ZMemorial as additional funds become available.

Respectfully submitted, L. R. "Pete" Thomas, Jr., PGM Representative

Report of the Representative to the Masonic Service Association

(Docket No. 19)

The following report was received and entered on the record. The recommendation that the Grand Lodge continue its membership in MSA was adopted, and the matter of finances was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Your representative attended the 79th annual meeting of the Masonic Service Association held in the Marriott Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Monday, March 23, 1998, with the Conference of Grand Masters.

It was reported that during 1997, the Masonic Service Association put out appeals for disaster relief for California, Nevada, Minnesota, and North Carolina.

During 1997, the MSA was requested to receive funds and transmit them to The Grand Lodge of Russia for a new computer system and The Grand Lodge of Italy for the earthquake damage suffered in Assisi.

The MSA Hospital Visitation Program continues to render valuable service to both Masonic and non-Masonic patients at Veterans Administration Medical Centers. Brother Edward F. Rose was selected in March 1997, as National Director of the MSA Hospital Visitation Program. The Director began conducting a series of workshops across the country to address pending changes by the VA in treating patients. The VA plans to reduce bed capacity at its medical centers by an increase in ambulatory patient care in out-patient clinics and placement of long term care patients in contract nursing homes. This new concept of patient care will offer challenges as well as new opportunities of service to the MSA hospital volunteers.

The MSA continues to print and distribute its popular "Short Talk Bulletins." Also, during 1997, the new digest Freemasonry and Democracy

was printed. Among the digests reprinted in 1997, was Masonic Philanthropies, made possible by the Scottish Rite Southern and Northern Jurisdictions. This updated edition shows North American Masonic philanthropy to be in excess of two million dollars per day.

The Masonic Information Center, a branch of the MSA, published in 1997, a new booklet to explain the relationship between Freemasonry and religion. It is titled "Get A Life—Thoughts on Freemasonry and Religion" and is an excellent source of information to answer critics of Freemasonry. The Masonic Information Center continues to respond on behalf of Masonry to questions posed by the media, by the general public, and by our members. As your representative to the Masonic Service Association, I make the following recommendations:

- 1. That we continue our membership in and support of the Masonic Service Association.
- 2. That the Lodges and members of this Grand Jurisdiction be kept informed by appropriate means of the availability of the educational materials available from the MSA.
- 3. That the Grand Master continue to schedule visits to the VA Medical Centers in North Carolina.
- 4. That we continue our support of the Masonic Service Association to the best of our financial ability.

Respectfully submitted, L. R. "Pete" Thomas, Jr., PGM Representative

Petition for Restoration

D.W.P.

(Docket No. 20)

The Petition for Restoration of D.W.P., formerly a member of Hominy Lodge No. 491, was read, entered on the record, and referred to the Committee on Appeals.

(Note: This petition was denied. See Report of the Committee on Appeals on page 128, Docket No. 47 of these *Proceedings* for action taken thereon.)

Petition for Restoration

M.P.E.

(Docket No. 21)

The Petition for Restoration of M.P.E., formerly a member of Manteo Lodge No. 521, was read, entered on the record, and referred to the Committee on Appeals.

(Note: This petition was granted. See Report of the Committee on Appeals on page 128, Docket No. 47 of these *Proceedings* for action taken thereon.)

Petition for Restoration

J.L.A.

(Docket No. 22)

The Petition for Restoration of J.L.A., formerly a member of Holly Springs Lodge No. 115, was read, entered on the record, and referred to the Committee on Appeals.

(Note: This petition was denied. See Report of the Committee on Appeals on page 128, Docket No. 47 of these *Proceedings* for action taken thereon.)

Report of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Inc.

(Docket No. 23)

The following report of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Inc. was received, entered on the record, and referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Board of Directors of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Inc., respectfully presents the following balance sheet and statement of revenue, expense, and changes in fund balances for which the Foundation is custodian.

Respectfully submitted, Sam A. Hennis, Jr., President Charles E. Scott, Jr., Vice-President W. David Ford, Secretary-Treasurer David B. Wilson, Director James R. Goodman, Director

The North Carolina Masonic Foundation, Inc. Statements of Financial Position December 31, 1997 and 1996

Assets

Current Assets:	1997	1996
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,601,263	\$ 2,645,670
Time deposits	700.000	575,000
Accrued interest and dividends	39.485	40,653
Marketable securities, at fair value	8,743,416	6.807.831
Unconditional promises to give—unrestricted support	37.537	100,000
Total current assets	\$12,121,701	\$10,169,154
Other Assets:	·,,·	V,,
Real estate	25,200	3,200
Total assets	\$12,146,901	\$10,172,354
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities:		
Due to beneficiaries	\$ 50,212	\$39,194
Total Current liabilites	50.212	39,194
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	. 12,042,967	10,079,525
Temporarily restricted	53,722	53,635
Total net assets	12.096.689	10.133,160

Report of the Grand Historian

(Docket No. 24)

The following report of the Grand Historian was received and entered on the record:

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

In his address to the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master offered the following remarks concerning the state of the Craft:

"The statistical report of the Grand Secretary shows a net loss of membership during the year..., but the figures themselves do not tell the whole story, and a few words of explanation are necessary for their correct interpretation. During February and March..., six charters were arrested and one surrendered thus accounting for a loss of 123 members." (The year's total loss was 167.)

The date of the report was April 18, 1939 and the Grand Master was Harry T. Paterson, reporting on the 1938 Grand Lodge year. (The Annual Proceedings back then had only one "t" in Paterson, later Proceedings used two.) But at Grand Lodge the following year Grand Master J. Edward Allen was able to report a membership gain of 34 for 1938, the first gain since 1927. Unfortunately, both 1940 and 1941 slid back into the loss column, reaching a membership low of 26,196. But 1942 registered a gain of over 300 and began a string to 40 consecutive years of solid growth. In a number of those years the annual gain was in the thousands, and this robust growth culminated in an all-time membership high of 73,076 in 1981. The gain was 46,880 or 179%. The average gain was 1,172 per year.

Now we have experienced 16 consecutive years of losses. (That's the exact number of years I have been Grand Historian. Do you suppose there's a connection?) We have reached a low of 60,592 for the period, a loss of 12,484 or 17%.

We have two big questions here: What brought about the phenomenal 40-year surge in membership that began during World War II and what caused the distressing 16-year slump that has followed it? If we knew the answers, we would be much better positioned to address the problem.

One fact stands out. Neither our Grand Masters nor our Grand Lodge, during the lean years of the 1930's, sought to jump-start membership growth by resorting to the tactics employed in some grand jurisdictions today. There are no reductions or eliminations regarding the catechisms our candidates are required to learn, they remain as they were. Those Masons of that time did not begin soliciting members. They did not confer all three degrees in a single day upon a large group of candidates. In short, Masonry in North Carolina was not tinkered with then and is not tinkered with today. Masonry here was the same at the end of 1981 as it was at the beginning of 1942. So the 40 years of growth just happened.

There is likewise no ready explanation for our 16-year slump. Population in the state has steadily risen and the economy has remained sound, but we continue to lose members.

If the truth were known, it is likely there were a combination of factors that strongly influenced both the growing and the declining periods, and we may never really determine what those factors were and are. One possible influence that stands out in any study of the years 1942–81 is the large number of new lodges created during the growth period and the exact opposite during the slump. It merits research.

Finally, and this has no real relevance to the foregoing, I have expressed to our incoming Grand Master my wish that I not be considered for reappointment to the office of Grand Historian. Accordingly, I wish to extend my sincerest gratitude to the 16 Grand Masters who have appointed me to this office so that I might serve the Grand Lodge in this manner. I also wish to thank all the wonderful Masons in North Carolina who have been so kind to me over the years and who have constantly thus reminded me of the true value of brotherly love and friendship.

Respectfully submitted, Reynold S. Davenport Grand Historian

Report of the Board of Publication of The North Carolina Mason

(Docket No. 25)

The following report of the Board of Publication of The North Caroina Mason was received and entered on the record:

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The North Carolina Mason continues to admirably perform its duty as the chief form of communication about and among Freemasons in our state. We could not, of course, publish the quality newspaper we do without the enthusiasm and cooperation of the lodges and Grand Lodge officers. The Printing Department at the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford deserves a special acknowledgment for their outstanding service and cooperation.

The North Carolina Mason won prizes in the Communications Contest of the North Carolina Press Club in 1997 and 1998 for editing, editorial writing, and photography. It also received national recognition from the National Federation of Press Women in 1997.

We believe the paper got a boost in content quality in the past year with Editor Ric Carter's assuming the position of assistant grand secretary. His time in the Grand Lodge office keeps him in touch with events around the state and increases the number of interesting stories available for the paper.

Beginning in 1998 we started sending *The North Carolina Mason* to Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts. We hope that this will help maintain the interest of advancing candidates in Masonry.

Our mailing list was combined with the Grand Lodge database in 1997. Addressing is now based on the members list at the Grand Lodge office. We apologize for the inconvenience some of you suffered in the transition. We are confident that the new system will lead to better service for North Carolina's Masons.

We again thank those of you around the state who send us news and pictures. We could not maintain the quality of the paper without your help.

Respectfully submitted, J. Carroll Simmons, Chairman

Report of the Committee on Subordinate Lodge Special Activities

(Docket No. 26)

The following report of the Committee on Subordinate Lodge Special Activities was received and entered on the record:

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Through the efforts of our predecessors, the subordinate lodges are becoming familiar with our duties and objectives. It is gratifying that most of the lodges are genuinely trying to follow *The Code* as it pertains to fund raising activities. We know it has been difficult for some to understand the restrictions placed on them when it comes to raising money after many years of having fund raising projects and using the revenues wherever deemed important.

There are still some lodges that want to keep their dues low and have projects to raise operating money. Reg. 77-1 of *The Code* relates that each lodge shall collect annual dues from its membership to maintain the lodge and discharge all of its duties and obligations.

Some of the lodges are not following up their *Code* permitted project with a financial report to the committee within 60 days after completing the project. This is very important.

The Subordinate Lodge Special Activities Committee is here to serve you. We welcome your inquiries and comments and will do everything we can to assist you.

Respectfully submitted, Charles R. Thomas, Chairman

Report of Committee on Masonic Research and Development

(Docket No. 27)

The following report of the Committee on Masonic Research and Development was received and entered on the record:

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

This year's duties of the Research and Development (R&D) Committee were expanded to include those of last years Committee on Masonic Ceremonies and Miscellaneous Publications and the renewal program entitled, Program for Progress. Gerry T. Smith was most helpful when he appointed three of the members of the Miscellaneous Publications Committee: I. Boyd Hopkins, J. Richard Holshouser, and A. Ed Lawing to serve on the R&D Committee with Eddie H. Moody, Jr., Chairman; Mack L. Gordy, Jr.; Norman W. Karr; Lewis R. Ledford; Charles N. Smith; and Daniel P. Weatherington.

The committee realized the importance of the Program for Progress and began to create a program to stimulate and monitor its progress in becoming the useful tool that it should be for all Masons throughout North Carolina. First, a letter was written from the R&D Committee to all DDGMs to remind them of the schedule that was established at the 1997 Grand Lodge Annual Communication; and it offered the R&D Committee members assistance in helping establish and complete such sessions. Second, the 65 districts were divided into ten Areas and assigned to R&D Committee members to make follow up calls to determine the status and progress in each district. Needless to say, the resulting performance statistics were too few to establish meaningful results. There were some DDGMs that held these seminars and with excellent results; however, they were too few in number. It was in this time period that we learned that a planned seminar consisting of all DDGMs was to be held in March 1998 before the Annual Communication. With this scheduled, we concentrated our Masonic education efforts toward the DDGM Seminar to inform all as to how information is to flow and what they could potentially receive in return.

We are sorry that the committee was unable to hold the area education sessions in January and February this year. Currently they are on schedule to return in 1999.

A new half size paperback "Program for Progress" is being made available for anyone who wishes to purchase one.

The Speakers Bureau continues to function. We have not kept an accurate count as to how many of the speakers have provided their services or the total number of talks delivered. This will be added in the future. We need more of the Brethren to submit their names for inclusion on the Speakers Bureau list!

I. Boyd Hopkins, PGM passed away this year. His death was a real loss to the committee, for he brought many ideas to help us from his vast Masonic knowledge. He wrote books and many articles on Masonry. Our departed Brother will sorely be missed, but the work must go on. We will continue to build on the trestle board he left us.

Respectfully submitted, Eddie H. Moody, Jr., Chairman

Report of the Committee on Masonic Public Relations

(Docket No. 28)

The following report of the Committee on Masonic Public Relations was received and entered on the record:

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Committee on Masonic Public Relations has mailed to each lodge within the Grand Lodge a copy of its revised "Open House Program." The Open House Program has served as an excellent method to inform selected individuals within the community about the work and purposes of the various Masonic bodies; but especially the Blue Lodge or Craft Lodge as it is called in other areas.

There are two needs that are important in making the public more aware of the work of the Masonic fraternity. At all levels of the Fraternity, there needs to be a deliberate effort to inform the public of the work of Freemasonry. News releases, use of video tapes about Masonry shown on local television stations and in presenting programs to civic clubs (such as "Freemasonry, A Fraternity for Life"), and participation in public events could make the public more aware of the presence and purpose of the Masonic Fraternity within the local community.

To that end, the master of the lodge could select a member of the lodge to prepare press releases for local papers, radio stations, and television stations concerning special activities of the local lodge. Awards Night, Past Masters Nights, and/or Ladies Night programs are all excellent events to publicize in local news media. Anniversary celebrations, lodge visits to local churches, and trips to either the Masonic Home for Children or the Masonic and Eastern Star Home would be excellent stories for local papers. Information concerning these visits should include statements of the philosophy of Masonry that causes the Fraternity to sponsor these institutions.

Blue Lodges should continue (and we encourage them to do so) to allow the use of their facilities for community programs that conform to the philosophy of Masonry. Bloodmobiles, immunization programs, and community suppers are some programs that are appropriate for lodge facilities.

College scholarships for local young people are an example of programs that would enhance the image of Masonry.

The second need in making the public more aware of our Fraternity is to encourage an openess among the members of the Fraternity in discussing the Fraternity when sharing with friends who are not Masons. Masonry needs to talk about itself. This does not mean that the individual Mason should share information that is inappropriate to discuss in public or solicit persons to become members, but it does mean that a willingness and eagerness to let others know the philosophy and the work of Masonry should be fostered in each Mason.

Every lodge should have an educational program once during each calendar year that would inform the members concerning what can and should be told to others about the Fraternity.

The committee will continue to supply the lodge with materials that will encourage the willingness to share the story of Freemasonry with others.

Respectfully submitted, James H. Coile, Chairman

Report of the Grand Master's Committee on Youth Organizations

(Docket No. 29)

The following report of the Grand Master's Committee on Masonic Youth Organizations was received and entered on the record and the portion pertaining to finance was referred to the committee on finance:

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Committee on Masonic Youth Organizations is happy to report that our Youth Organizations continue to be strong and healthy as to be listed as one of the truly brightest spots in all of our Masonic activities. All three of the youth groups which are active in North Carolina are growing in membership with new chapters, assemblies, and bethels being formed and organized. Both DeMolay and Rainbow are experiencing about a 20% increase in members. Job's Daughters, which only a few years ago only had two active bethels in the state, now has three and a fourth is being organized in Greensboro.

A great deal of the success of any organization comes from its leadership, and we are indeed fortunate to have some of the best adult leadership possible to guide our youth. Dad E. John Elmore completed his year serving as the 65th Grand Master of the International Order of DeMolay and continues to function as the state executive officer for the order. Ms. Kay Letterman continues to serve admirably as the Supreme Deputy in North Carolina for the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and the Jurisdictional Bethel of the Carolinas selected Ms. Sandy Dunbar to serve as the Jurisdictional Guardian for the two Carolinas.

These adult leaders have worked together for quite some time and have succeeded in bringing the three organizations together in a spirit of cooperation and comradeship such that, whenever one of the organizations is meeting, you can be assured that members of the other two will be around. A state-wide Activities Day for the three organizations to meet together is planned for this coming July in Greensboro.

Our Grand Master, Gerry T. Smith, proclaimed March as Masonic Youth Activities Month in North Carolina. With a special request to all of our lodges to somehow take part in the activities of our youth organizations, either attending one of their meetings or inviting our youth to visit the lodge, this proclamation will undoubtedly help to provide much more support for our youth organizations from our lodges. The Committee deeply appreciates the Grand Master's support and that of all the Masons across the state.

Several new ideas are being tested in our youth organizations, and it will be interesting to follow the results of these innovations. North Carolina is one of several jurisdictions which is testing a lowered age requirement for boys to enter DeMolay (from 13 to 12). Additionally, a Squires Program was started in Raleigh, which is a club for young men 10-12 years of age. Sponsored by the Raleigh Chapter of DeMolay, this group has its own ritual and meets prior to the Raleigh Chapter meetings. If successful, a national Squires Program may be implemented.

The Masons of North Carolina can be proud of the young men and women who make up our youth organizations. With continued support from our lodges, particularly in the form of added adult leadership, these activities will continue to be strong and vital, and will help to extend the influence of Masonry into the coming millennium.

Respectfully submitted, William B. Brunk, PGM., Chairman

Petition Of Mooresboro Lodge No. 388 To Change Its Location

(Docket No. 30)

The petition of Mooresboro Lodge No. 388 to change its location was received and referred to the committee on charters and dispensations.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

WHEREAS: The Charter issued to Mooresboro Lodge No. 388 AF&AM by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina shows the location of said lodge as Mooresboro, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS: Mooresboro Lodge No. 388 has purchased property within the corporate limits of Boiling Springs, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS: Mooresboro Lodge No. 388 has the resources to construct a new lodge building pending approval; and

WHEREAS: The location is within the territorial jurisdiction of the said lodge;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED: That Mooresboro Lodge No. 388 hereby petitions the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge to change the location of the said lodge on completion of its building to read Mooresboro Lodge No. 388, Boiling Springs, North Carolina.

Respectfully submitted, Mooresboro Lodge No. 388

Report of the North Carolina Masonic Development Program

(Docket No. 31)

The following report of the North Carolina Masonic Development Program was received, entered on the record and referred to the Board of General Purposes:

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

This the fourth year of Development Programs and Activities in the Grand Lodge. We have grown in annual giving, legacy gifts and planned gifts, and individual lodge gifting—The Grand Master's Five Star Program.

The year 1997 will be recorded as a record year for our North Carolina Masonic Charities. The annual giving from the lodges and friends of our two homes was up 31% over 1996 to \$1,763,182.00. Legacy gifts were \$1,452,762.00 up 75% over 1996. And, more importantly, the Grand Master's Five Star Program for lodges grew from 21 lodges in 1996 to 70 lodges in 1997.

The annual giving from our lodges to our North Carolina Masonic charities has grown tremendously. In 1994 the average contribution from a Master Mason in North Carolina was \$15.87. In 1997 the average contribution from the membership was \$29.10 for an average of 22.4% per annum growth over the three-year period.

Since coming to the Grand Lodge as the development officer for our NC Masonic Charities, I have worked diligently in helping our membership understand planned giving and the different ways one might plan to leave their estate or a portion thereof to one, or all, of our charities. I have visited individual homes and lodges throughout our grand state; met with Masons, wives, widows, sisters and even sons and daughters to communicate the message of our charities, their need, and how planned/legacy gifts will live in perpetuity, forever, supporting distressed children and elder brothers and sisters in our wonderful Masonic Homes.

My report to you today cannot be measured in its true sense by dollars and assets. My files are growing daily by inquiries and planned visits. The more I can help any Mason, or his wife or family member, better understand what we do and how we do it for children and elder family members, the more our legacy gifts will grow and enrich further our endowments. My goal is that each year I can stand before this Grand Lodge at Annual Communication and report growth in this area. And 1997 reflected a 75.5% growth over 1996.

The Grand Master's Five Star Program was a huge success in 1997. In 1996 we started the program with 21 lodges qualifying for the Five Star recognition. This year, 1997, reflected 70 lodges qualifying and producing over 38% of all annual gifts to our charities. Again, 70 lodges provided almost 40% of all annual gifts to our three charities!

The Grand Master's Five Star Program is awarded to any lodge that reports overall advancement or improvement in development and fund raising efforts; to progress and to evolve and mature in growth; to perpetuate the process of completeness and to initiate and increase the programs and activities aimed at helping The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and The Masonic and Eastern Star Home and The North Carolina Masonic Foundation. To qualify each lodge must have:

- Minimum annual contributions to both The Masonic and Eastern Star Home and The Masonic Home for Children.
- Minimum annual contributions to the NC Masonic Foundation.
- Participation in at least two Masonic fund raisers.
- Annual contributions to the NC Masonic Charities reflect and represent growth.
- And, upon receiving this award, eligible for additional consecutive Grand Master's Five Star awards.

In conclusion, I am excited about 1997's performance but I am more excited about 1998 and the future. I am honored to have this opportunity to serve and I promise to do all in my power to provide our membership and our North Carolina Masonic Charities with the development support they may need and require in order to perpetuate their future and livelihood.

Respectfully submitted, James L. Medlin, Director of Development

Recommendations of the Committee on Finance

(Docket No. 32)

The recommendations of the Committee on Finance were read to the delegates as a matter of information. Those recommendations are found in Docket No. 44 along with the action taken by the delegates at that time.

Report of the Board of Custodians

(Docket No. 33)

The following report of the Board of Custodians was read and entered on the record:

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Board of Custodians comprised of Bunn T. Phillips, PGM, grand lecturer; H. V. Massengill, chairman; J. Luigi Ammons, secretary; T. Bruce Boyette, representative to the Board of General Purposes; Vincent P.

Bonaminio, Leslie Turner, Ottis R. Jefferson, Jr., and Ted Campbell held five meetings in 1997-98.

During the month of September the Certified Lecturer examinations were conducted across the state in the locations of Greenville, Clinton, High Point, Charlotte, and Asheville. The totals for the five day examinations are as follows: There were 462 Certified Lecturers beginning in April of 1997. The examination results were: 18 new As; 64 renewed As; 1 new B; and 2 new B to A upgrades. There were five deceased and three dropped from the roster due to failure to report for examination, for a net loss of eight Certified Lecturers. There have been 13 extensions filed and 19 who failed to appear for re-examination and will be extended until 1998 if they apply. We now have 454 certified lecturers in North Carolina.

During the course of the year there have been several lodges who have not met the requirements of a School of Instruction set forth by the Board of Custodians. The Lecture Service was suspended in April of 1996 in lieu of the additional hour for a School of Instruction plus two additional lodge members to attend the school. Almost all of our subordinate lodges have complied with the new rules. There have been a few isolated cases where the Grand Master has issued a waiver to delinquent lodges allowing them to attend the next scheduled school. At the November meeting of the Board of Custodians, the requirements for attendance was dropped from five (5) officers and two (2) members, to three (3) officers and four (4) members. The Board is encouraging the lodges to comply with the new rules.

The O.S.W. revision is nearing completion. The past year has been spent working on changes to make the three degrees concurrent with one another. The committee has spent numerous hours studying the needed changes. Once a working copy is attained, the committee will press forward with the proposed revisions for the approval of the delegates. The process is lengthy, but accuracy is a must.

The Board of Custodiams would like to thank Gerry T. Smith for his support of the Board during his year as grand master and to Bunn T. Phillips, PGM, for his tireless efforts as grand lecturer. The Board of Custodians would also like to express their appreciation to the 65 district deputy grand lecturers of this grand jurisdiction who have served well and supported the decisions of the Board

Respectfully submitted, J. Luigi Ammons, Secretary

Presentation Of Plaque

On behalf of the North American Conference of Grand Masters, Grand Treasurer Clifton W. Everett, PGM presented to Past Grand Master Jimmy Brewer a plaque, saluting his 50 years attendance of the North American Conference of Grand Masters.

Report of Committee on Grand Lodge Information Systems

(Docket No. 34)

The following report of the Committee on Grand Lodge Information Systems was received, entered on the record, and referred to the Board of General Purposes:

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

The Committee on Grand Lodge Information Systems (GLIS) has met four (4) times this year continuing to review the status of hardware and

associated software, and the status of the North Carolina Grand Lodge web site. The domain name is grandlodge-nc.org and can be visited on the world wide web. The grandlodge-nc web site is a real success! Have you visited the web site on your computer or on someone else's computer (relative, Brother, friend, etc.)? The address is: http://www.grandlodge-nc.org. If you haven't, please do so soon! You will be most proud. It is a job well done, and it is not yet complete. More will be added as budget money becomes available.

The items still to added to the web site are:

- A. Provide Grand Lodge administration functions consisting of a combined calendar of events, R&D Speaker Bureau members and papers;
- B. Host blue lodges and appendant bodies will be allowed to put up web pages (without internal e-mail) for a fee of \$120 and \$240 respectively annually. These fees will be very cost saving to all who wish to utilize this type of communication and advertising.

There has been a real bonanza of E-mail. This new communication link has proved to be of great value to the Grand Lodge officers. For example, there have been a wealth of ideas flowing on the impending republication of the OSW. This is a great help to your Grand Lodge to better meet the needs of all of its members in a most efficient manner.

The webservice provider is Cybersystems (www.shopthenet.net) of Greensboro, NC, and the webmaster is Ric Carter.

The budget for these expenses has been included in the Board of Publications' budget for 1998. This is where they belong since this is only an interactive publication.

Respectfully submitted, Eddie H. Moody, Jr., Chairman T. Walton Clapp, Grand Secretary Joseph K. Transou

Presentation Of Plaque

(Docket No. 35)

Don Robey, past grand master of Vermont and executive secretary of the Masonic Service Association, presented a plaque to Grand Master Gerry T. Smith thanking him for his promotion and support of the The Masonic Service Association of North America and its programs.

Presentation Of District Deputy Grand Lecturer Certificates

(Docket No. 36)

Past Grand Master, Grand Lecturer Bunn T. Phillips, Jr. presented certificates to the following past district deputy grand lecturers:

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Dist.	Last Name	First	Middle	Lodge Name	Number
2	Davis	Hallet	Swinson	Perservance	59
8	Allen	Lee	Kyle	Cherry Point	688
9	Mercer	Phillip	Ray	Richlands	564
10	Searls	Jay	LaVon	Federal Point	753
23	Ammons	James	Luigi	Millbrook	97
25	Saunders, Sr.	Joseph	Charles	Hiram	40

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26	Kennedy	Woodley	B.	Cary	198
27	Holt	John	В.	St. Patrick's	617
31	Gonia	Danny	Curtis	Buffalo	172
33	Hancock	Bobby	Gene	Knap of Reeds	158
35	Walker	David	Joseph	Jefferson Penn	384
37	Bulla	Donald	Hugh	Bush Hill	732
39	Greene	Chesley	McAulay	Kilwinning	64
44	Hogue, Jr.	Danial	Myrl	Andrew Jackson	576
52	Arthurs	Harold	Ray	Campbell	374
62	Wallin	Lee	Everett	French Broad	292
63	Matthews	Cohen	Swinton	Sonoma	472

Called From Labor To Refreshment

Prayer was offered by Grand Chaplain Ellis J. Bedsworth, and the Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshment until 1:30 P.M.

First Day-Afternoon Session Call To Order

Grand Master Gerry T. Smith called the Grand Lodge meeting to order at 1:30 PM on Saturday, April 25, 1998.

Presentation Of Masonic Youth Organizations' Representatives

Past Grand Master William B. Brunk introduced the speakers from the youth organizations.

Kay F. Letterman, supreme deputy in North Carolina, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls addressed the Annual Communication:

Most Worshipful Grand Master Smith, Deputy Grand Master Gregory, Grand Lodge Officers, Distinguished Guest and members all:

It is indeed a great pleasure to once again come before the Grand Lodge and speak about my Rainbow girls. I have just concluded my second year as Supreme Deputy for the state of North Carolina. We have had a lot of good things going on in our beautiful organization this past year. I am glad to report that two Rainbow Assemblies have been reinstated, Kannapolis Assembly No. 31, and Salisbury-Rowan Assembly No. 35. One new assembly was opened on November 9, 1997, Bahama Assembly Lt. As I mentioned earlier, Salisbury-Rowan No. 35 was reinstated last June, and have initiated 24 girls since then. In fact, this past Tuesday evening, they initiated six girls. May I also add that the mother advisor of this assembly, Mrs. Susan Shores, is also the mother of the state master councilor, Jonathan Shores.

Our membership has grown over the past year with the initiation of 132 girls, but we continue to need the help and support of our Masons and lodges. As advisors of our youth, we always say that these youths are the future of our organizations. This is so very true, but at the same time, these young people need these youth organizations to give them a healthy atmosphere, where they may be safe, and to reinstate old family values. It is time that all of our organizations get back to the basics of being a Masonic family of knowing where our children are, who they are with, and what they are doing. I encourage each one of your to get involved in our youth organizations, for these young people are our tomorrow.

This first step of emphasizing that our youth are important to all of our tomorrow has been started by Most Worshipful Grand Master Smith, with promoting March as Masonic Youth Month. I personally want to thank Most Worshipful Grand Master Smith for all the support he has given us this past year. It indeed has been a joy and pleasure working with him.

As to the new year coming, I know Deputy Grand Master Gregory will give us his support. His daughter Kimberly is a former Rainbow girl and he knows, as a parent, how the girls benefit from our order. Deputy Grand Master Gregory, I do look forward to working with you this coming year.

After the session is over this afternoon, I will be in the lobby to talk with any of you about the Rainbow Girls and how an assembly may be opened. Again, Most Worshipful Grand Master Smith, I appreciate your invitation and the time to speak.

This afternoon I have the pleasure of bring to you and introducing a lovely young lady, Miss Christy Blankenship. Christy is now acting grand worthy advisor and will be installed as grand worthy advisor of North Carolina on June 30, 1998 at our Grand Assembly Session. She is a member

of Winston-Salem Assembly No. 37, where her grandmother, Ann Blankenship, is her mother advisor. Christy is a freshman at Appalachian State University. This July, our Supreme Assembly will meet in St. Louis, Missouri, and I am excited to announce that Christy has been chosen as acting supreme drill leader. This is an distinct honor for her as well as for our state. She is a young lady of poise and dignity, has a personality that wins your heart, and a smile that you will never forget.

Gentlemen, I present to you, Miss Christy Leigh Blankenship, acting grand worthy advisor, of the Grand Assembly of North Carolina, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.

Acting Grand Worthy Advisor, International Order of Rainbow for Girls in North Carolina, Christy Blankenship delivered the following message:

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Distinguished East, Masons and friends:

Good afternoon! I am happy to be here today as a representative of the 399 Rainbow girls in the state of North Carolina. I have been an active member of this organization for the past nine years, and in that time it has played an ever-increasing role in my life. When I first got in, it meant long meetings and car washes. As time passed, it meant friends, last minute scrap book meetings, and late night lock-ins. But I don't think I realized how much Rainbow has shaped my life until I left my home assembly in Winston-Salem this past fall to go to school in Boone. See, the meetings and the friends are a part of every organization in the world. I could have found those anywhere. What makes Rainbow special, what sets it apart from Key Club and Girl Scouts, are the lessons that it teaches. I am lucky to have had it's instruction for the past nine years because it has helped me to define who I am. The lessons of charity, love, and service are those which I will carry with me for the rest of my life. Since I have been at Appalachian State University I find myself referring to those lessons and to the obligations I have made more and more often. College is a fun place. It will put you to the test every day, and I am not talking about biology classes. It will present you with choices and challenges unlike any you have ever seen before, and unless you have a clear picture of who you are and what you want in your life, you can get into a lot of trouble. I know because I have seen it happen to people.

More than anything I would like to see more girls in the state have the opportunity to be a part of this fine organization. It offers the kind of life instruction and support that only a Masonic family can give. For the past decade the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls has been suffering a sharp decline in membership. The girls are out there, but we need strong adult leadership to help pave the way for our growth. This is the real challenge confronting the Masonic fraternity: to make sure that no girl misses out on this opportunity simply because there is no assembly in her area to attend. Neither one or our organizations can accomplish this goal by themselves. But by working together we have the potential to make that change.

Emilie Deans, Miss Job's Daughter of the Carolinas and past honored queen Bethel No. 2 in Raleigh, delivered the following address:

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers, Past Worshipful Grand Masters, dignified guests, and Master Masons:

Good afternoon, my name is Emilie Deans and I am a rising freshman at North Carolina State University here in Raleigh. I am also Miss Job's

Daughter of the Carolinas, the Jurisdictional Outer Guard, a Supreme Representative to Santa Catarina, Brazil, and a Past Honored Queen of Bethel No. 2 here in Raleigh. It is a great honor for me to be here with you again this afternoon to speak with you about Job's Daughters.

First of all, I would like to say I am delighted to be in front of Grand Lodge for a second time. It was my pleasure to speak to the members of Grand Lodge in 1997 for Past Grand Master Dr. Bill Brunk. I was told at that time that I was the first female to speak before Grand Lodge and I am very pleased that both Job's Daughters and Rainbows are able to be here today. It seems that we have come a long way in supporting each other. I hope that working together, all of our beautiful organizations can grow.

Now, I would like to give you an overview of Job's Daughters and who we are. We are your daughters, granddaughters, stepdaughters, and nieces. We are your family. We are between the ages of 11 and 20 and believe in one true God. Job's Daughters is the only international youth organization that has its own philanthropic project. Just as the Shriners work for Shriner's Hospitals, Amaranth works for diabetes, Job's Daughters work for the HIKE fund. HIKE stands for the Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment Fund. Where we help give hearing devices to less fortunate hearing impaired children. Our lessons that we strive to teach come from the Book of Job in the Old Testament of the Holy Bible. We are taught that if we live the patience and have the faith in God that Job had, we will be able to overcome the trials we encounter throughout our lives. If we remain true to God through all of our trials, we will be rewarded in the end. We also read in the 42nd chapter, 15th verse of the Book of Job that "in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren." This is the passage upon which Job's Daughters is founded. And as Job's Daughters we strive to live up to this passage daily to show others that we are truly the "fairest in all the land." These are the lessons that we teach our Pilgrims in our Ceremony of Initiation and strive to reinforce to the daughters through our meetings.

However, we are taught many things besides these that I have already mentioned to you. We may not realize the invaluable lessons that have been impressed upon us but we will carry them with us regardless. The adults that help us through our journey in Job's Daughters impress upon us the importance of citizenship, respect, trustworthiness, patriotism, honesty, integrity, and the importance of remaining true to these ideals through all that you do. We also have been taught reverence to God, love for our country, respect for our elders, and most importantly love and friendship of our sisters. Just as you call your members brothers, we in Job's Daughters call our members sisters. I am proud to call all the members of Job's Daughters my sisters. They are my motivation, my inspiration, my support, and my friends.

Our meeting place is called a bethel which means "holy place" and we have three top line officers that sit side by side in the East. They are called the Honored Queen, Senior Princess, and Junior Princess. We have two more elected officers and fourteen appointed officers in the bethel. At the end of our meetings before we go our separate ways, we give a word of prayer to watch and protect the "Master Masons which give us our heritage." Each one of us have a Mason to thank for our membership because we have to be related to join. So, without Masonry, Job's Daughters would not be able to exist.

Here in the Carolinas, we have a jurisdiction because North and South Carolina have banned our efforts together in order to make Job's Daughters strong. While we are still getting our feet planted in what we feel to be a great thing, Job's Daughters is trying to grow right out from under us. I am excited to say that we have prospective bethels in Greensboro, Sumter,

South Carolina, and one in Hilton Head, South Carolina. These two bethels would be a great addition to the four bethels we already have. We have one in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and the rest are in North Carolina. They are located in the Eastern part of the state, in the cities of New Bern, Jacksonville and Raleigh. When I joined Job's Daughters exactly seven years ago on this day I never dreamed of doing the things that I have been able to do. In August I am traveling to British Columbia, Canada with Sandy Dunbar, Our Jurisdictional Guardian, and Irene Birbeck our Jr. Miss Job's Daughter of the Carolinas to compete for the honor of being the Miss Internation Job's Daughter. On my journey to another country I will be able to represent the Masonic fraternity here in North Carolina well. While this is only a dream that few Job's Daughters get to experience, everyone one of us are proud to say that they have grown from a young eleven year old to a confident motivated woman through our journey in Job's Daughters.

So what does this mean for the Masons in North Carolina? First of all, this is an organization I hope every Mason is proud of. This helps create the Masonic family we call home. Think of how much Masonry has done for you and your family personally. Now think of how nice it would be to share that feeling of love with your daughter, granddaughter, or niece. By doing that, you have the great opportunity of helping mold and shape your love one into who she will become. The involvement does not stop here. Once we realize, as Job's Daughters, what the Masonic fraternity can do for us, we want to continue in the Masonic Family. This means after the age of twenty, we must look elsewhere for our guidance, support and companionship. The places we turn are to the adult Masonic organizations such as Eastern Star, Order of the Amaranth, and White Shrine. I am proud to say that I am petitioning Eastern Star, Milbrook Chapter No. 293 here in Raleigh. Job's Daughters serves as a stepping stone to these organizations. Although this may not be a direct impact on Freemasonry itself I would like to share a story with you that will show how it can impact the Masonic fraternity. About four years ago, shortly after Grand Lodge, I met a man that had recently moved to North Carolina. The gentleman I met said he was a Mason and was in attendance at Grand Lodge and was very proud of my speech. His family was involved back in California with Masonry. He then began to tell me a story about his wife, who is a Majority member of Job's Daughters. She said to him, when they were about to get married, I want you to join the Masons if you want to marry me. The Masonic fraternity was so important to this lady that she did not marry this man until he joined the Masonic fraternity. This sounds like a very sweet story but let me just tell you how much this man has now impacted Masonry in North Carolina. He serves on the Jurisdictional Council of the Carolinas, and is the administrator of the Masonic and Eastern Star Home in Greensboro, Mr. John Rose.

As you can see Job's Daughters has done so much for so many and is looking to do so much for so many more. We appreciate all of your support and offer ours in return. Since there are only four bethels in the Carolinas, there is much room for expansion. Job's Daughters is a wonderful experience and becomes not only an extracurricular activity, but a way of life. We can help girls from all walks of life come down the same path to a beautiful womanhood. We have laughs to share, friends to make, and sisters to gain. Job's Daughters is the best thing that a young woman can do for her future. I now personally invite each one of you to find out for yourself exactly what Job's Daughters is all about. If you have any questions about Job's Daughters, know of a young woman between the ages of 11 and 20 with Masonic heritage, are interested in starting a bethel in your area, or just want to chat, please come by the Masonic Youth table outside. Most Worshipful Grand Master I would now like to give you our founding pin to wear proudly

upon your lapel. Again, thank you for your time and my opportunity to speak.

Past Grand Master of DeMolay International, State Executive Officer for DeMolay, E. John Elmore introduced State Master Councilor, Order of DeMolay, Mr. Jonathan Shores, Jr., who delivered the following address:

Grand Master Smith, Deputy Grand Master Gregory, Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, distinguished guests, Lodge Officers, and members

Good afternoon. First of all let me start out by saying thank you for the invitation here today. As Dad Elmore said my name is Jonathan E. Shores, Jr. I am attending Campbell University, which is in the small Christian community of Buies Creek, where I am majoring in Trust Law. As a matter of fact this week I have final exams and about two hours ago I just got done taking one. My home, however, is in Salisbury. While I am on the topic of Salisbury and Rowan County, let me thank the 44th Masonic District for all the support they have given me over the years. I would also like to thank, on behalf of the North Carolina DeMolay members, the various Masonic Bodies for their support in terms of monetary and volunteer.

About six years ago I had the privilege of watching a young, shy, timid and pudgy boy grown up. This young boy at the time did not realize that he was taking a big step in his life by joining a part of the Masonic family—DeMolays. This young boy knew what Shriners, Masons, and Eastern Stars were, after all he was proud to claim his grandfather as past master of his lodge twice, his grandmother as past grand worthy matron in South Carolina, and his father and uncles as past master councilors of their DeMolay chapters, and all Masons. As soon as this young boy joined DeMolays, I started to see a major change. Probably one of the most noticeable was his weight loss and secondly, he became outspoken, flamboyant, and full of energy.

DeMolay in the state of North Carolina is on the move. We are growing tremendously. The state has 23 faithful state officers, the most ever. Many new events have happened this year including the seventh anniversary in Greensboro. Two new awards have been created this year, the Harry Lee Welch III Memorial Award, which is in memory of a brother who passed away last April, and is given to the young man with the most members recruited in a given year. Also, the RD of the year which is given to the young man whoest exemplifies the precepts of the Order. They will undergo hours of questioning and paper work to achieve this award. We also have some chapters that play some or their athletic events in a church league, with the team name being DeMolays, of course. Now you are probably wondering what are all these things doing for the Masonic family? They are promoting the name of DeMolays in a positive manner and in return giving the Masonic Family on a whole a positive name.

Speaking of a positive name, a few years ago, my chapter was getting recharted and we had a few prospects that went to the Bible Book Store and got pamphlets on how the Masons and other groups associated with it were devil worshipers! Well I know that something was wrong with that. In my spare time I do a lot of research on the Masonic heritage and other people's opinion of it. The first week I was at school I went to the library and looked up "MASON'S" on the computer, and to my surprise about twelve items came up. But the one that caught my eye was titled "A Study of Freemasonry." I checked out the book and began reading it, which I encourage all of you to do. The book is put out by an appointed committee in the Southern Baptist Convention, so my expectations before reading the book was that it

was going to be derogatory, but I figured that I would read it and see what they found to be negative about the Masonic family. Well to my surprise this book was not degrading the Masonic heritage or family. In fact, it had many positive things to say about it.

One fact or tidbit of information that I learned while reading this book was that in the Southern Baptist Convention there are 430 ministers of education, 247 directors of missions, 202 deacon chairmen, and 283 pastors. who are Masons. These are the leaders of our community but yet negative images are still being translated to society. Also, there are an estimated 500,000 Southern Baptist men that are Masons. Did you know that every president of Baylor University, a Christian university, has been or is a Mason. Gentlemen these statistics are just within the Southern Baptist Convention, there are numerous other Christian religions that I have not mentioned. As I said before I found nothing in this book that portrayed the Masonic family in a negative manner. In fact, "It was not found that Freemasonry is anti-Christian or satanic, nor does it oppose the Christian Church. There are some who have found that membership in the lodge provide Christian Masons opportunities to witness to people of other faiths that other opportunities fail to provide." This brought an interesting question into my mind, and that was if all these leaders are Masons then why do we have a negative name? I have yet to find an answer to that question but I am open to comments.

If you come in contact with anyone who has something negative to say about the Masonic family, refer them to this book. I believe that the Masonic family is the greatest thing that I have ever been involved with. I look on it as a positive achievement that I have done and I want others to look at it that way as well.

Do you remember the young boy that I was talking about? This young boy has stood before you once as the top recruiting DeMolay in the world. He has received the Blue Honor Key, PMC-MSA, Chevalier, and many other awards. This young boy now a young man has leadership skills that will last a lifetime and he has loved his journey in DeMolay. In just two years he will be ready to take his second journey into the road of the Masonic family and become a Blue Lodge member and brother of all of you. I stand before you today as that young boy who has grown and blossomed into a young man.

I urge each of you to help give the Masonic family a positive name. Matthew 5:16 says "witnessing relationships can be built by both word and deed." As a Christian Masonic family everyone should discover ways to proclaim the hope they have in Jesus Christ. I believe the right to private judgement is the crown jewel of humanity, and for any person or institution to dare to come between the soul and God is a blasphemous impertinence and a defamation of the crown rights of the Son of God.

In conclusion, Masonic bodies should work hard to promote a positive image of our family. A starting point is at the level of our youth organizations. Our DeMolays, Job's Daughters, and Rainbows are working hard to promote such a positive image to other youth and could use the wisdom and guidance of our Masons in this task. Gentlemen we need your wisdom, guidance, and leadership to show us the difficult task in life that await us and also to help promote the name of the Masonic family in general. I once again thank you for allowing us to bring this message on behalf of all members of our fraternity. I leave you with a quote that I think fits perfectly with Grand Master Smith's speech last night. "The Bridge Between Failure and Success is HOPE." Thank you and God bless.

Called From Refreshment To Labor

Grand Master Gerry T. Smith called the communication from refreshment to labor.

Special Report Of The Building Program At The Masonic And Eastern Star Home

(Docket No. 37)

The following special report of the building program at the Masonic and Eastern Star Home was delivered by John Rose, administrator:

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers, Brethren:

I have been asked to bring you up-to-date on the new Care and Wellness Center. In May of 1997 MESH hosted a wonderful Ground-Breaking Ceremony. Since that date we have been pursuing day one of construction. There are a host of issues to include permits, licenses, local and state government approvals, and a host of other bureaucratic issues.

It is much like setting up dominoes. All the effort is in getting the dominoes lined up just right in order to push the first one down.

MESH has all the dominoes in place and has pushed the first one down. Even as we speak, work is underway on a new parking lot to support the expansion.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of MESH, as well as the residents, thank you for your support of this badly needed Care and Wellness Center. MESH is tangible evidence of our Masonic obligation. Thank you for taking it seriously.

Report Of The Committee On Necrology

(Docket No. 38)

The following prayer was offered by Reverend Ellis J. Bedsworth, Grand Chaplain.

Almighty and immortal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, before whom we labor in the quarries of life, and before whom we shall some day appear to give account of the service we have performed under the watchful eye of your divine guidance. We give You thanks for Your guiding hand along the way of our earthly pilgrimage. We give You thanks in a special way for Your unending blessings on our brothers who have ceased from their labors and now rest from their earthly travels and toils.

We call to remembrance Your loving kindness and your tender mercies to Your servant and our brother, Past Grand Master I. Boyd Hopkins, and all those of our brothers whom we name in our hearts before You as we make our prayer. For Your goodness which withheld not their portions of the joys in this earthly life, we give You thanks and praise.

We praise Your name for the grace which kindled in their hearts the love of Your name and an unending quest for your light. We express our gratefulness for Your strength which enabled them to fight the good fight, to endure to the end, and to obtain a victory over all the adversities of life. We magnify Your holy name that their trials and temptations are ended, sickness and death are passed, with all the dangers and difficulties of this mortal life, we commend them to Your gracious and loving care in that celestial lodge above.

We beseech You, O Lord God, that we who rejoice in those qualities of

life that endeared them to us, may we profit from their examples and so live our lives that we shall rejoice in reunion with them, when we come to the end of our earthly journey, and gain admission into the temple and city of our God. Amen.

The following report of the committee on necrology was presented by David R. Grissom, chairman and was entered on the record:

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina

Some of you remember Aesop's great fable about an old crow who was out in the wilderness and very thirsty. He had not had anything to drink in a long time. He came to a jug that had a little water in the bottom of it.

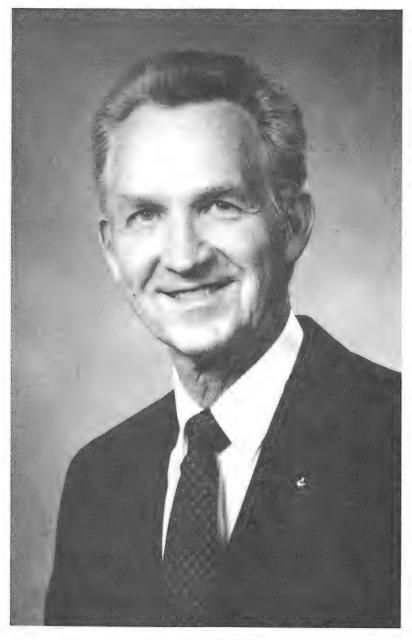
The old crow reached his beak into the jug to get some of that water, but his beak wouldn't quite touch the water. He thought for a moment, and not to be outdone, started picking up pebbles one at a time and dropping them into the jug. And as more and more pebbles accumulated in the bottom of the jug, the water rose in the bottle until finally the old crow was able to drink all that he desired.

That's a parable of the way God has chosen to work out his plan in our world. Each of us dropping in our own little pebble—helping a neighbor, visiting someone who has been sick or shut-in; Masonically, calling a brother, taking a brother to the lodge, helping on a project in the lodge when you and a few more brothers will be the ones doing all the work.

Many of these brothers we remember today, were among those few who worked on projects, sat for hours coaching the catechism, helped someone in need and always tried to be an inspiration to his family and friends, and an example of a good Mason in his community. Today we remember 1,532 departed brothers who in some way dropped their pebbles of love, kindness and support into our lives and refreshed us and we are better men and Masons because they were part of our fraternal family. Whether we knew them personally or not, they were first and foremost our brothers, and they will be missed.

Among our brethren, we remember Richard Harrison, DDGM 56th Masonic District, Kenneth Abernathy, DDGM 40th Masonic District, and John Holt, DDGL 27th Masonic District.

We also remember one of our distinguished past grand masters, I. Boyd Hopkins. Today, we are honored to recognize the son of Most Worshipful Hopkins, Brother I. Brady Hopkins, who will have special remarks in remembrance of his dad.



Ira Boyd Hopkins

Grand Master 1984

Born: March 31, 1929 Died: September 20, 1997

Ira Boyd Hopkins

Eulogy delivered by Ira Brady Hopkins, son of Ira Boyd Hopkins

While I was thinking about what I wanted to say about Brother Boyd, Past Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina, the word grand stood out to me in a strange way. To me, Dad was a simple man with simple actions that led to grand results. He taught about them, preached about them, and befriended us with them. His simple actions were these: he encouraged all that was good, kind, and charitable; and reproved all that was vicious, cruel and oppressive. Does that sound familiar?

Not only did he encourage, he led by example. He always was a good man, sometimes too good. When he was fourteen, he went to his first moving picture show. Brother Boyd wasn't sure if he was doing the right thing, so he sat with one foot in the isle. This was in case the Lord came back during the show, he could make a quick exit.

Dad was a kind man, generally quick with a smile and a firm hand shake or kiss on the cheek. There was one time, however, that I asked our family doctor if he could give Dad something for his grouchy spurts.

Dad was a giving man. I can remember on more than one occasion going with him to the grocery store and getting groceries for a family a little down on their luck. He gave to his country, to his community, to his church, to his fraternity, and he gave us his wisdom. One of our Masonic lessons is, that "Charity extends beyond the grave to the boundless realms of eternity."

Speaking of giving, he was quick to give a piece of his mind when things weren't right. Usually he did this with beautifully arranged words that could be vicious. Sometimes they felt like a beating, but it was because the truth hurt, and he knew we could do better.

Dad's motto was: "Semper in Veritatis Scrutatione," i.e., "Ever in Search of Truth." Do all of you remember when we were in complete darkness? We asked to receive more light in Masonry. In one of Dad's speeches he wrote; "Masons are seekers after the light. Our life-long Masonic pilgrimage is a quest for truth. However lucid or illusive truth may be will not deter or detain our search, for searching is our reason for being. Once truth is found, our goal is to love it in the most charitable way possible. Part of Freemasonry's search is for more and further truth about immortality. The Great Architect of the Universe, the Creator of Man, has given us minds to contemplate and evaluate it, and souls with which to experience it."

There's a country song sung by Alabama called "Angels Among Us". They sing about being guided by a light of love. Could the light in the song be the same light that we as Masons are seeking? Could that light be the Truth? Could it really be that simple? I believe that Brother Boyd has entered the boundless realm of eternity, into that spiritual house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens in that undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveler returns. I believe Dad found the Truth.

I would like to conclude with a poem by Travis Manchester, a young man who grew up in the Flat Rock Baptist Church where Dad was a minister.

Preacher Boyd Hopkins

Once in a while a man comes along
Who sings God's praises and wonderful songs
And touches so many with a gentle hand
God's love and care made into a man
Able to give unconditional love
A gift to all from heaven above
A man who taught us all about life
Living himself in the footprints of Christ
There to support when times were bad

Patient and giving of all that he had
And my heart he touched so many ways
A steady friend day after day
And now the time has come for me to let go
But before I do I want you to know
As this chapter of your life comes to an end
God's speed to you my teacher, my preacher and friend

September 21, 1997 Eric Travis Manchester

Thank you, Brother Brady, for sharing your kind words, he was a wonderful example in your life and in the life of Masonry throughout North Carolina.

Utilizing the gifts that are ours to serve in ways we can may not seem all that important at the time, but as the pebbles accumulate in the bottom of the jug, and the water rises, God builds His kingdom and brings His plan to fruition.

You are important brethren and fortunately God is dropping pebbles in your life so that faith, hope and brotherly love will always refresh and assist you.

Respectfully submitted, David R. Grissom, Chairman Necrology Committee

Recognition Of Brother Burl "Burt" Burtaine

Burl "Burt" Butaine, 101-year-old member of Junaluskee 145, was invited to the stage by Grand Master Gerry T. Smith. Brother Burtaine made the following remarks:

Before I say anything, I like to see a smile on your faces, so I'm going to tell you something.

I took my girlfriend out for a ride a little while ago and she said to me, "If you're going to take me for a ride in the country, fine, but I'd like you to take the top down because I like the wind to blow through in my hair."

And so we had a nice day, a pleasant day out in the country. And so I said, "Wonderful, I'll take the top down." And I told my friend it took me quite a while to take the top down. He says "I could take the top down in about five minutes". I says, "Yeah, you got a convertible."

Now that's what I like to see — a smile on your face.

It's only going to take me about four or five minutes to talk to you because what I say is going to be impressed upon your mind. I think the Grand Master told you that on June 26 I will be 102. I have a warehouse. I got four or five hundred pounds of coffee in there now, ready for my charity pancake breakfast. The last one was last Saturday and it was our first one this year. That was for the Oxford Orphanage and the Masonic Home for the aged. All this money goes split between them. We have a pancake breakfast in our lodge, a pancake breakfast for the Eastern Stars, a pancake breakfast for the Oxford Orphanage, one for the Masonic Home for the aged, and also one for the Crippled Children's Hospitals. All that money we collect for charity, and all that money I've been raising for the last sixteen years and I expect to keep on doing it until...

I have a motto. The Shrine, of which I happen to be a life member, they have a motto and I'll tell you what the motto is when I finish talking. I want to talk to you old fellows, you old fogies, I want to talk to the young fellows, too. I want to tell you that on my paper sale for the Crippled Children's Hospitals, I'm under the lights every week. Next one in May, I'll be under the lights again collecting money for them. I'm a fund raiser. I just got a check last month. Janet Davis in Franklin, the little town that I live in, she died. I spoke to Janice quite a while. I talked to her about my fund raising and her lawyer in Florida sent us a check and we got the check last month. The amount of this check, I'd like to tell you, was \$591,454.00 for the Crippled Children's Hospital.

Now I'm going to tell you, the life of Masonry is attendance — most important — attendance. You took an obligation, you're going to be a Mason. You think that little button that you got on your lapel makes you a Mason? Forget it. You've got an obligation. You've got to attend your meetings.

I'm 102, I've attended every meeting in my lodge, I don't miss a one. I attend all the funerals in my lodge. I always will as long as I live. The life of our organization is this attendance. If you will attend, we will live. If you stay home, we are going to die.

My motto is this, "I'm 102. If I can do it, you can do it. And don't you forget it."

Thank you.



Gerry T. Smith
Grand Master Presiding

Report Of The Grand Master

(Docket No. 39)

Most Worshipful Brother Gerry T. Smith, Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina, delivered the following report, which was referred to the Board of General Purposes (See also Docket No. 40 of these Proceedings for distribution of this report.)

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina:

Welcome Brethren:

It is a high honor to host our distinguished guests from other Grand Jurisdictions, leaders of our appendant bodies, the delegates and other interested brothers of our Grand Lodge family.

For the 385 lodges who have sent you here to convey the important decisions affecting our beloved fraternity, I hope and pray for brotherly love and harmony. As your leader for this year I made decisions and directional changes to chart our course toward a long and prosperous future. I feared we were on a course that eventually would shipwreck us. It is time to blend our ancient rituals and the beautiful lessons of the degrees with some 21° century application.

In accordance with *The Code*, I now report to you my activities for this year as your Grand Master.

Necrology

Since we last met at our Annual Communication, we have had hundreds of our beloved Brothers go to their final reward and enjoy that rest prepared by God Almighty in Heaven. We miss their smiling faces. We feel that void in our lives that can never be replaced. We cherish their memory here and command their spirit to God who gave it.

North Carolina Masonry lost one of its grandest grand masters September 20, 1997 with the sudden death by heart attack of Brother I. Boyd Hopkins. Brother Boyd was twenty years ahead of us all in his thoughts for this great fraternity. If we had only listened to him and supported him more we would be in a lot better shape today. He was a deep thinker, and a brilliant writer and speaker. When our religious detractors try to claim a man cannot be a Christian and a Mason, they certainly didn't know about this man. If anyone could be called a Christian, then Brother Boyd could. He indeed lived a Christ-like life. He would want us to be happy about his death, because he has joined his beautiful, beloved wife Jean who went before him. I applaud his son Brady for the beautiful funeral service he did for his father. Mom and Dad were very proud of you that day. May God bless you always, Brother Brady.

Meeting With District Deputies

Rather than our usual evening meeting, I met with our district deputy grand masters and district deputy grand lecturers at the conclusion of the afternoon session on the first day of the 1997 Annual Communication for two reasons.

First I thought we had plenty of time to discuss my program and schedule for the ensuing year before we retired to our respective lodgings.

Second, I hoped they would appreciate having an evening free to dine and enjoy fellowship with the delegates from their respective districts.

If the Grand Master is the captain of the Grand Lodge ship, then you my Brothers are the keel. You are the strength and support it takes to keep our

subordinate lodges shipshape. I applaud your many laudable deeds for Freemasonry.

I'm sure Brother B. T. Phillips, Jr., grand lecturer, also conveys his appreciation to the DDGLs.

Our district officers, working together as a team, can enhance any district regardless of how good or bad things may be. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Board of Custodians

My Brethren, this is our Grand Lodge committee that probably gets fussed about the most. They are charged with the task of overseeing the proper use of our OSWs and rituals. They must be sure our subordinate lodges are receiving proper instructions through regularly scheduled Schools of Instruction. In a spirit of accommodation they are working with the lodges to see what works best in each case. To the members of the Board of Custodians, we thank you for the many hours of meetings, many miles traveled, and other sacrifices you make for us. This is a service we all appreciate, but too often fail to let you know.

Grand Master's District Meetings

My brothers, this was the most enjoyable part of my year, because I was able to visit with you on your home turf. It is impossible to meet you individually at Annual Communication sessions due to time constraints. I regret my work would allow me to make only 37 meetings. Still I pretty well covered the whole state going from Morehead to Murphy and many points in between. We live in a beautiful state and have a lot for which to be thankful. Each meeting gave me special memories to cherish forever and special friendships to share. I received many wonderful gifts that ranged from socks to sweet potatoes.

I wanted to shorten the openings of those meetings for the sake of time to explain my program, discuss upcoming Grand Lodge business, and, more especially, to fellowship after the meetings while still getting you home before too late. These meetings should be for the membership, not an ego trip for the Grand Master.

It was a special honor for me to have many outstanding brothers sit in the East with me at these meetings. I want to thank Brothers Walt and Ric for accompanying me on these trips and trying to keep me from getting lost, which took a special effort in the mountains. I also thank the many past grand masters and fellow Grand Lodge officers who made special efforts to attend these meetings.

Committee on Research and Development

This is a very important committee because it is their charge to plan programs to further educate us and make preparations for the future course we should follow.

Their main focus this year has been *Program for Progress*. This Masonic education plan came from Masonic Ceremonies and Miscellaneous Publications Committee last year. It is a very valuable tool which, unfortunately, many lodges have cast aside and forgotten.

Thank you brethren of the Research and Development Committee for your tireless efforts to better our Brotherhood.

North Carolina Masonic Development Program

Brother Jim Medlin, we owe you a tip of the Southwester for the outstanding year you have had in fund raising efforts. The pin program was a howling success beyond all belief. You had the faith in it and made it work.

This is however just the tip of the iceberg in our needs to fund the new Care Center at Greensboro and ensure a secure financial future for both of our Homes.

Brothers, this proves that changing for the future is the only way we can be sure of a future. Many Chicken Littles didn't think this office was a good idea five years ago, but it has been proven that it was a very timely idea.

Again, Brother Jim, thanks from us all.

Joseph Montfort Medals

The hardest decision I had to make this year was trying to decide which three Masons would receive the Joseph Montfort Award, our fraternity's highest honor. There are many hundreds among you who deserve it, but unfortunately we cannot honor everyone. I hope you will be satisfied with these choices and applaud them for what they have accomplished.

My first official action as Grand Master was to present T. Walton Clapp III, grand secretary, with my first Montfort medal. Brother Clapp is a past master of his home lodge, Mystic Tie Lodge No. 237. While still wet behind the ears he moved to Raleigh to become assistant to our beloved Pete Dudley. He toiled long and hard with Pete ensuring a successfully efficient Grand Lodge office. The past several years have been especially hard with Pete's illness and death.

This year hasn't been a piece of cake for him either trying to work with this strange talking fisherman. God bless you, Walt and Betty, many, many thanks.

I had the great honor and pleasure to present the second Montfort medal to one of the orneriest Masons in North Carolina. He is also one of the most dedicated. Ottis Jefferson of Franklin Lodge No. 109 is presently serving in his 14th year as secretary. He is a past district deputy grand master and past district deputy grand lecturer of the Eighth Masonic District, 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason, assistant director of work in New Bern Valley. He has been a member for 22 years of Sudan Temple Ceremonial East, is past patron of the Eastern Star, and past district deputy of this Eastern Star district. Brother Ottis has given his life to Masonry through the many lectures, funerals, or anything he was ever called upon to do.

Happily, this medal was presented in my home lodge where he is an honorary member. His lovely wife Violet was in attendance. We have a special relationship in that we can argue for hours about Masonic subjects but still remain best friends. Thank you Ottis, we love you.

I will be making the third presentation at the Annual Communication in April.

The North Carolina Mason

I am firmly convinced that the money we spend on this paper is wisely spent. What has convinced me is the number of Masons, wives, and widows that have mentioned or written to me about some of the news in the paper. Most of these have been from men who don't attend meetings, but they stay abreast of what is going on in North Carolina Freemasonry by way of our paper.

Some of the articles some of you deemed controversial, but they weren't intended solely to be that. They were to wake up the Craft and try to spark some interest. We have a good tool for communication, so let's use it. I want to especially thank Brother Ric Carter for all his help this year and for bearing with me on not meeting his deadlines. I also want you to know he is the best map reader I ever traveled with. Brother Ric, his beautiful wife, Kitty and daughters, we thank you for all you do. God bless you all.

Physical Disabilities

During the year, I was requested to approve waivers of physical disabilities for a number of petitioners for the degrees in Masonry. In each case, the district deputy grand master of the District in which the petition was received, made a personal investigation of the petitioner and reported to me. I wish to commend each of them for the prompt and efficient manner in which they handled these investigations. Based upon the reports and recommendations received, I approved the waiver of physical disability for 11 petitioners.

Dispensations Granted

At the time this report was being prepared, I had granted thirty-seven dispensations. These dispensations had been granted to accomplish the following purposes:

Seventeen dispensations were granted to elect officers and fill lodge vacancies created by death, resignation, or failure to elect in December.

Two dispensations were granted for visitation with subordinate lodges in other grand jurisdictions.

One dispensation was granted for out-of-state visitation in our subordinate lodge.

Fourteen dispensations were granted to permit lodges to hold meetings other than at the regular meeting place.

Two dispensations were granted to permit lodges to re-ballot.

One dispensation was granted for the purpose of a lodge holding meetings while the Charter was being refurbished.

Twelve official orders were issued this year. They are listed along with the final disposition of the Grand Lodge in the Report of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, Docket No. 45.

Honorary Title Of Past District Deputy Grand Master

I recommend that the honorary title of Past District Deputy Grand Master be granted to the following brethren, each of whom is both qualified and eligible under the provisions of Regulation 11-4.2 of *The Code*.

A complete list of recipients is found in Docket No. 43 of these Proceedings.

Emergent Communications

It was a privilege to call four emergent communications of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina this Masonic year. These emergent communications were held as follows:

Date	Lodge	Location	Purpose
April 26, 1997	Cliffside 460	Cliffside	Plaque Dedication
Sept. 24, 1997	Renfro 691	Mount Airy	Masonic Services
Oct. 18, 1997	Gastonia Mas. Temple	Gastonia	Plaque Dedication
Mar. 31, 1998	Concord 58	Tarboro	Dedication

Emergent Communication April 26, 1997 Cliffside, NC

An emergent communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina was held at Cliffside Lodge No. 460, Cliffside, North Carolina, on Saturday, April 26, 1997 at 1:30 P.M. with the following present:

Grand Lodge Officers

Richard G. Moore, PGM (544)	as Grand Master
Jack H. Huskey (460)	as Deputy Grand Master
Robert Honeycutt (SW-460)	as Senior Grand Warden
L. Steve Wilkie (460)	as Junior Grand Warden
W. Hoyle Potter (460)	as Grand Treasurer
Ransome H. Epley (Sec-460)	as Grand Secretary
Dennis R. Matheny (460)	as Senior Grand Deacon
Gerald L. Short (JW-460)	as Junior Grand Deacon
Gary B. Huskey (460)	as Grand Marshal
D. Wayne Millis (460)	
Jerry E. Martin (460)	
R. S. Burleson (Chap-460)	Grand Chaplain

Others Present

T. Walton Clapp, III, (237), Grand Secretary

J. Hal Davis, (91), District Deputy Grand Master

The Grand Lodge was opened in ample form by Richard G. Moore, past grand master of Masons in North Carolina, who announced that the purpose of this emergent communication of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina was to dedicate a plaque at Cliffside School in honor of their 75th anniversary. Seventy-five years previously, Cliffside Lodge No. 460 laid the cornerstone for Cliffside School.

The purpose for which this emergent communication was called having been accomplished, the minutes were read and approved, and the Grand Lodge was closed in ample form.

The attendees then proceeded to the site of the ceremony, where the welcome address was given by Mr. Phillip White, principal of Cliffside School. Music for the occasion was rendered by the Chase High Band and the Cliffside School Chorus. Prayer was offered by Rev. Jim Sparks.

Mr. Walton Dalton introduced Brother Moore, who made appropriate remarks as to the purpose of this special occasion.

Richard G. Moore, Past Grand Master

Attest: T. Walton Clapp, III, Grand Secretary

Emergent Communication September 24, 1997 Mount Airy, NC

An emergent communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina was held in the temple of Renfro Lodge No. 691, AF & AM in Mount Airy, North Carolina, on September 24, 1997 at 9:45 A.M. with the following present:

Grand Lodge Officers

Gerry T. Smith (741)	Grand Master
Lester P. Martin, Jr., PGM (134)	as Deputy Grand Master
Charles M. Ingram (13)	Senior Grand Warden
Thomas W. Gregory, DGM (27)	as Junior Grand Warden
Alvis L. McAlexander (Sec691)	as Grand Treasurer
T. Walton Clapp, III (237)	Grand Secretary
Bunn T. Phillips, Jr., PGM (495)	as Senior Grand Deacon
William G. Mathis (138)	Junior Grand Deacon
Robert N. Bass, Jr., PGM (97)	as Grand Steward

Sam A. Hennis, Jr., PGM (322) as Grand Steward
A. Gray Childress (691) as Grand Tyler
J. Richard Holshouser (363) Grand Chaplain

The Grand Lodge was opened in ample form by Brother Gerry T. Smith, Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina, who announced that the purpose of this emergent communication was to conduct Masonic graveside services over the remains of our deceased Brother, Ira Boyd Hopkins, past grand master, who passed away on September 20, 1997.

The purpose for which this emergent communication was called having been accomplished, the minutes were read and approved, and the Grand Lodge was closed in ample form.

Those present proceeded to the site of the services where the following tribute was delivered by Brother Thomas W. Gregory, deputy grand master.

A Tribute I. Boyd Hopkins

If God plays favorites, he perhaps sent us a message about our dear Brother Ira Boyd Hopkins when he had him born on an Easter Sunday morning.

Brother Boyd often spoke of life and Masonry as we live it. Happily, many of those messages were recorded for later generations to share. While our modest Brother might hesitate to apply all his observations about others to himself, we can see him, his approach to life, and his lessons to us in his writings

As he approached his time as Grand Master, he spoke of his feelings. His words speak to us also of the way he approached life and his suggestion as to how you and I should live. Brother Boyd said:

"I must confess that I feel like the little boy who was asked by his playmate, 'Can you play the piano?'

"The little boy replied, 'I don't know, I've never tried.'

"I have never tried being Grand Master, but this year I am going to try. My only promise is to do the best I can with what I have where I am each day."

He was a much loved, much respected, and frequently misunderstood friend. He expected much of himself and let us know when he fell short of the mark.

He also demanded much of us, and let us know when we fell short.

Brother Boyd said:

"To know the law of love is one thing; to live the law of love is man's greatest challenge.

"My personal motto is Semper in Veritatas Scrutatione, 'Ever in search of truth.' I do not consider myself a good man, but as a friend commented, 'I want to be good.'

"The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak' (Matthew 26:41). Who will take this albatross from my neck?

"Sometimes my feet of clay mire in the murky mud of mischief. It is then that I plead to be directed by prudence, chastened by temperance, supported by fortitude, and guided by justice, raised to a higher moral plane. Being accepted, forgiven, and loved by another, especially a Brother, equals salvation of the soul."

Many of us venerated him for his stand on racial equality through times of intolerance. He fought to do right despite public opinion. That does not mean that he felt no pride from the approval of others.

On the occasion of Brother Berl Kahn asking him to be Grand Chaplain, Brother Boyd said:

The address of welcome was given by the Grand Master, and music for the occasion was rendered by Brother Juinius H. Koonce.

The Ceremony of Dedication was then conducted with the usual Masonic custom.

John H. Harris, III (M-58) acted as Master in the ceremony
J. Stanley Vick (58) was the Principal Architect
R. Carlton Owens (58) was the Bearer of the Taper
Jack L. Andrews, Jr. (58) was the Bearer of the Constitution
A. Brooks Webb (58) was the Bearer of the Three Great Lights

The oration for the occasion was delivered by Grand Master Gerry T. Smith. John H. Harris, II, Master of Concord Lodge No. 58, expressed the lodge's appreciation to the Grand Master and others who participated in the ceremony. A brief response was made by the Grand Master.

Gerry T. Smith, Grand Master

Attest: T. Walton Clapp, III, Grand Secretary

The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

The crown jewel of North Carolina Freemasonry is our Home for Children at Oxford. This year we will be celebrating 125 years of continuous operation. February 13, 1873, the first three of more than 8,000 children entered our Home. There they have found a safe harbor — a loving home to fulfill their physical and spiritual needs. They received a good education in school, a good education in preparing them for their chosen vocations, and a good education in preparing for the ups and downs of life.

We are very proud of them and their achievements, of the many doctors, lawyers, and professionals of all walks of life they have become, and of public servants such as Senator Bob Martin.

Having been able to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of this Home is one of my proudest titles. Masons have a lot to be proud of in what they are accomplishing here. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to our entire staff. Most of the success of this Home we owe to them because of their absolute love and devotion to the children and to you. They are not in this work for money. They do not receive nearly their true worth. I am truly amazed that our ladies in the office handle the load of paperwork so effectively and efficiently.

St. John's Day was very special for me in having Ty Saunders as one of our entertainment headliners. I had the honor of raising Ty when I was Master of my lodge in 1982. We are very thankful for Lloyd Young and his hard work in ensuring the success of this celebration. We thank the three Shrine Temples for their help and all our Shrine Brothers for the dinner, the parade, and the entertainment for the kids. This is the one day that the whole family of Freemasonry comes together in brotherly love and charity. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

The most enjoyable time I had at Oxford was the week-end of October, the annual Homecoming for the alumni. I was treated royally and heard many inspiring stories of how this Home had changed lives. I was very honored to be able to bring the message Sunday morning at the York Rite Chapel.

I have had the pleasure of serving with many of the best men of our fraternity on this Board. I wish to especially thank Dan Rice, an alumnus of the Home and Dr. James Galloway. I thank PGM Bud McCall and PGM Dr. Eddie Stiles for giving me the honor of serving on this board and you my brethren for electing me to the offices that let me serve again. If ever there is a labor of love, this is it. To Mike and Jeanie Soehnlein, many thanks for the wonderful work you do with the kids in publishing the Campus Tracks

newspaper. God bless you, David Grissom.

Masonic and Eastern Star Home

Our home in Greensboro is very similar to our Oxford Children's Home. The biggest difference is the age of the folks we serve. It also is a safe harbor for our sisters and brothers who are in their twilight years. It is not a luxury retirement haven as many private homes boast, but a clean, safe, well cared for home to supply all their needs. Many of our residents over the years would not have had this type of environment without your support and dedication.

We are good at talking things to death, and that was about to happen with the Care Center. Dr. Eddie Stiles in 1987 saw the need for a new Care Center and launched a project to build it. Unfortunately we did not follow through like we should have. PGM Clifton Everett alerted us to the crisis at our Home. It was now time to put up or shut up as the saying goes. We were facing the dilemma of either closing the Home or biting the bullet to go forward with a new Care Center that would rescue our Home from financial failure. Thankfully the Board of Directors opted to move on plans for the project. In May 1997 ground was finally broken. By the time of our 1998 Annual Communication bids should be out and contracts signed to begin construction. There have been hundreds of hours spent in deliberations about how to best pursue this project. Your Board of Directors are due a round of applause for all they have done.

I wish to especially thank PGM Bob Bass, Brothers Jerry Stapeford and Bryan Lassister for their years of excellent service to the Board. Brother John Rose was sent to us by divine intervention. His compassion for the residents and his special administrative abilities and knowledge couldn't have come at a better time. To M. E. Rathsbottom, many, many thanks for your devotion to our home and the things you do for our Boards. We owe you a deep, deep thank you. May God bless you and keep you with us for many years.

To all our staff, we extend our heartfelt thanks for all you do. The success of our home is in your hands. You have more than adequately fulfilled this. Sister Carolyn Ferguson and Brother Jack Walters, worthy grand matron and patron, many thanks for all your years of service to this noble cause. To all our sisters and brothers of the Eastern Star, grand officers, past and present subordinate chapters, we extend our love and deep appreciation to you. Without your help this Home would probably not be here today.

I am very humbled to have been a small part of this renewal of the future of our Home. May God bless it and see it continues for many years to come.

VA Hospital

I have had the honor and privilege to visit the Veterans Administration Hospitals at Fayetteville and Asheville. It was an honor to me to visit these dedicated Brothers who have served our country so honorably. The greatest sacrifice a person can make is to offer their life for this country. I was astounded at the enormous amount of time and effort our Masonic Service Association volunteers devote to the visitation program. Not only do they tend to our Masonic brothers, they also help any veteran at the hospitals who needs help. I had admired these programs at a distance, but after seeing first hand, that distance has been bridged. Many, many thanks to all our volunteers. We hope other Masons will join you in this heart warming effort. I plan to visit at least one more VA Hospital before the Annual Communication.

Southeastern Masonic Conference

The Southeastern Masonic Conference was held in Jackson, Mississippi on July 31-August 2, 1997.

Because of a scheduling conflict and other business commitments, I was unable to attend this conference. Unfortunately, North Carolina had the smallest representation at the Southeastern Masonic Conference that we have had in many years. Attending from North Carolina were: Clifton W. Everett, Jr., PGM, grand treasurer and Walton Clapp, III, grand secretary.

The theme for the conference this year revolved around the role of the Blue Lodges, the furtherance of membership enhancement and the various charities operated by the grand lodges. Topics discussed included: education programs being used in addition to or in lieu of full catechism; "Reactivation of Suspended Members; Programs That Have Worked and the Results;" "The Effect of the Computer Age and Internet on Freemasonry;" "What Effect Do the York Rite and the Scottish Rite Bodies Have on Symbolic Masonry?;" "Should Grand Lodge Be Involved in The Operation of Masonic Homes?;" and "Exemption From Payment of Dues; What are We Willing to Pay?" It is interesting to note that Clifton W. Everett, Jr., PGM and grand treasurer presented a paper and presentation entitled "Reactivation of Suspended Members; Programs That Have Worked And The Results". The response from the assembled delegates was very positive and shared much information regarding the programs we have tried here in North Carolina as compared to our sister jurisdictions.

The Southeastern Masonic Conference was formed by the nine states including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. This conference was formed in 1960-61, and annual meetings are rotated among the various jurisdictions. Having a regional Masonic Conference is beneficial and should be productive in fostering ideas common to the nine states comprising this conference; however, I am informed by those delegates from North Carolina who have attended the Southeastern Masonic Conference during the last several years that the vigor and optimism which used to be present in the presentation of topics has waned and that we are merely "plowing the same field" over and over. Attention should be given to revitalizing the Conference in an effort to create interest among the younger members of our fraternity and, thereby, enhance attendance and the quality of the topics discussed. It was suggested several years ago that North Carolina consider forming an alliance to create a mid-Atlantic conference with the states more centrally connected to the eastern seaboard and that possibility is still a viable alternative. I recommend that this matter be studied by the Board of General Purposes with a view toward assessing the interest of other grand jurisdictions in our mid-Atlantic area as to the possibility of this association.

The 1998 Southeastern Masonic Conference is scheduled to be held in Louisville, Kentucky.

Conference Of Grand Masters Of Masons In North America

Following the custom of recent years, the 1998 Conference of Grand Masters of Masons of North America was held at the Marriott Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, February 22-24, 1998. The topic for the Conference was "Enjoying Masonry". There were 63 grand jurisdictions represented at the Conference and the leaders from other appendant bodies not only included the Masonic jurisdictions in Canada, the United States, and Mexico, but those attending came from various points around the world and gave the Conference an international flavor. It was especially meaningful to see in attendance those grand lodges from the former communist block in Europe who have reactivated the various grand lodges there and whose

members in attendance afforded a very positive impact upon the vitality of Masonry in those areas formerly behind the iron curtain.

Once again business commitments (at the very last minute) prevented my attendance; however, I was especially pleased that the group attending from North Carolina gave our state a very positive visR. W. Thomas W. Gregory, deputy grand master; Clifton W. Everett, Jr., PGM and grand treasurer; Walton Clapp, III, grand secretary; L. R. "Pete" Thomas, Jr., past grand master; H. Lloyd Wilkerson, past lt. grand commander and sovereign grand inspector general in North Carolina, and his wife Jeanne; Ric Carter, editor of The North Carolina Mason and assistant to the grand secretary; and Jerry Stapleford, past master of Doric Lodge No. 568 and current member of the Board of Directors of the Masonic and Eastern Star Home in Greensboro.

There were various topics discussed at the general session and in group sessions as follows:

- 1. Enjoying Freemasonry in Europe
- 2. Masonic Renewal
- 3. Prince Hall Masonry
- 4. Warden's Program (Will-Tell)
- 5. Controlling Our Destiny By Creating Our Future
- Surprised by Joy
- 7. Pennsylvania Masonic Model
- 8. What Leaders Do
- Internet

The high point of the Conference was the address given by our keynote speaker, General and Brother Thomas Wilkerson, United States Marine Corps, and son of Worshipful Brother H. Lloyd Wilkerson and Jeanne. Brother Tom Wilkerson gave a most impressive and inspiring talk concerning patriotism and Masonry which thrilled those in attendance, kept everyone's undivided attention, and filled all our hearts with pride, that he is a Brother Mason from North Carolina and a shining example to all the Conference of the true meaning of the phrase "A Man and A Mason". There was not a single person in attendance who heard his remarks who did not go away uplifted and recharged.

One of the most interesting events held at the Conference was the break out sessions devoted to an explanation of the recognition of Prince Hall Masons. Several past grand masters from Indiana and Arkansas representing the various Prince Hall bodies in those jurisdictions spoke to smaller groups explaining the aspirations of the Prince Hall Fraternity with respect to recognition by the various grand lodges in North American Jurisdiction. Each break out session was attended by an overflow crowd and the conversations between the Prince Hall Grand Masters and those in attendance predicated that a positive dialogue could be held on this subject. I am sure further communication with regard to these matters will occur, but it was the first time, to my knowledge, active Prince Hall Masons were in attendance to give their personal views with regard to the relationship between the grand lodge jurisdictions (which are all independent bodies) and the various Prince Hall Masonic bodies operating in those jurisdictions. As we all know, this is a much discussed topic of late and I can only observe that free, open, and frank dialogue produces better understanding of the various aspects of recognition as we proceed by our own discussions. One of the most contentious aspects of the Conference this year was the lengthy discussion regarding the Conference of Grand Masters of North America to be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, in February 1999. Due to the large expense involved in traveling the great distance to Hawaii, many jurisdictions wish to alter the meeting place for the Conference. However, after much discussion and debate, it was voted by other delegates in attendance to honor our contract with the various hotels and hold the conference in Honolulu in February 1999.

Tentative plans for the Conference to be held in 2000 include Savannah, Georgia. I wholeheartedly recommend that we continue to participate in this Conference.

Visitations

All of my official visitations have been within the state. Due to my work and scheduling conflicts, I have not been out of the state to visit other grand jurisdictions. It seemed each time we were invited somewhere, something else would pop up from a state lodge or appendant body. In state occasions have been my first priority.

While I attended many events at lodges around the state, I am sorry I couldn't make it to more. Work schedule, many requests for visits, and great distance prevented more visits than we would have wished.

I had the great honor and pleasure of presenting many 25, 50, and 60-year service awards. I really enjoy giving these awards because they are a way we can say, "Thank you, wonderful brothers, for many years of devoted service." Brother Dave Munden of Ocean Lodge No. 405 received his 60-Year Award November 1 and passed away to that Heavenly Temple several weeks later. I thank God for letting him receive this honor before He brought Dave home.

Another honor was presenting 50-Year Awards to three blood brothers: Paul, Tom, and Clarence Beachem at Franklin Lodge No. 109.

I was invited by Oasis Temple to attend their fall ceremonial but had to decline due to quarterly Board meetings at our Homes. I received an invitation from Sudan Temple to attend the Imperial Shrine session but couldn't go due to schedule conflicts. I especially thank the Past Potentate of Amran for the beautiful print they gave me at their celebration at Bingham Lodge No. 272 in Mebane. I liked it so much I bought one for my lodge and one for my son, Ted.

The fall reunion of New Bern Scottish Rite Bodies was especially rewarding. We honored the "oldest rat in the Masonic barn"— Brother Jimmy Brewer. We had a nice banquet Friday evening hosted by Brother Cliff Everett to relive and celebrate Brother Jimmy's absolutely great contributions to Masonry, church, community, and his fellow man.

The weekend of November 14-15 was one of my most memorable. I was elected to receive the 33rd degree honorary. I was the active candidate. Our Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Lloyd Wilkerson truly made me feel like a Grand Master. Never before in my life has the red carpet been rolled out to me like it was there. Illustrious Sir and your lovely wife Jeanne, Becky and I say many, many thanks for a beautiful experience. Lloyd's a true jewel in the crown of Freemasonry not only in North Carolina but everywhere he goes. He brings honor and respect to our fraternity.

Our Jewish brothers in the Charlotte area held a special event to honor our fraternity. Brother Walter Klein and others put together a special service at Temple Beth El with Governor James Martin as the featured speaker. This was an evening I'll always cherish. Becky, Ric Carter, and I were guests for dinner at the Carmel Country Club. My heart swelled with pride at seeing the synagogue filled with Brothers in Masonic aprons. They hosted a wonderful reception afterward to meet and greet this delightful group.

In December I was the honored guest of the Campus Tracks staff at the Outback Steak House in Raleigh. This was their annual awards dinner. We need to support them as much as possible. Also, this month I had the honor of celebrating with the members of St. Alban's Lodge No. 114 their 150th

anniversary. My father was a native of Lumberton and returning there was very special for me.

I was busy from mid-December to mid-January doing officer installations in many lodges. I encourage all lodges to have open installations, invite family and friends, and tell them about Masonry. Explain our archaic terminology, the purposes, and details of that ceremony.

In January I was honored at the annual DeMolay Grand Master's Class. In February I was inducted as an honorary member of Camp LeJeune Chapter No. 329 of the National Sojourners. This is a wonderful group of dedicated Masonic veterans and military men. Also in February I was honored by my Eastern Star Chapter with a reception held at the Masonic Temple in Beaufort.

It's not too often this High Tider gets to the mountains, but when I do it's a joy to behold. I have heard about the great time of fellowship at the York Rite Summer Assembly and thanks to the Grand York Rite Bodies, I was invited to participate. Again the red carpet was rolled out. I thank all my York Rite Brothers for this memorable occasion. I was again welcomed at the Annual York Rite meeting in Raleigh in March.

Visitation is the hallmark of Masonry. We all need to enjoy more visiting other lodges. Brother Wiley K. Hill of Dover and Washington Lodge No. 675 passed away in February. Wiley loved to attend lodge as much as those he visited loved to see him come through the door. He likely averaged more than three meetings a week for years. We would all do well to follow his fine example.

Grand Lodge Library and Museum

Near the end of his term, Grand Master Bill Simpson appointed a committee to begin work on a Grand Lodge Library and Museum. The project, assembling and preserving the archives and records of the Grand Lodge, will be a long one. A facility in our office is already in preparation to receive these records and reference books as they are preserved and cataloged.

We owe a special thanks to Brother Brian Edwards and his wife Faye for the many hours of labor and expertise they have given to this project. Brian is a member of Manteo Lodge No. 521 and works at the Outer Banks History Center.

Grand Lodge Office

In my years of dealing with many different businesses, organizations, and government offices, never have I ever seen such professionalism and efficiency as in our staff in Raleigh. Past Grand Secretary Pete Dudley used to say Joyce Watson knows *The Code* better than anybody in North Carolina. She knows it because it is a large part of her job handling the massive amount of paperwork that travels through the office. Cornelia Doherty is equally knowledgeable and talented at what she does. Both of these ladies are very cordial and helpful. That to me is very important. They realize just as Walt and Ric do, that they work for you, the Masons of North Carolina, not just the Grand Master. Ladies, we salute you for your dedication and hard work.

When I was making plans to become your Grand Master, it was necessary to spend many hours at the Grand Lodge office. It soon became apparent to me that Walt needed some help. Many others that were in direct contact with the office also saw the need. The Board of General Purposes offered the job of administrative assistant to the grand secretary to Ric Carter. He continues to edit *The North Carolina Mason*. This has worked very well to our advantage because he is a great asset to our overall